Need to actually state thesis in introduction

How are we going to que one another for our parts?

Now that we’ve seen the United States position in the space race, I will discuss why China may be a good candidate for an international space leader.

China currently has a great economic stance. Kazuto Suzuki, a Chinese university professor, mentions that China can be seen as a sleeping dragon that is waking up. In this class we have seen that the US today may be a superpower, but its Asian counterparts are slowly but surely becoming our equal. This is also true for China’s space program capabilities. China has the highest potential growth in its government budget. Space exploration seems to be of great importance in the country’s political agenda. In addition the space budget growth rate is gaining momentum. (Explain graph)

Another reason that points to China becoming a space leader is the competition it brings. China is competing against Japan for what’s called “soft power”. This is competition over leadership and merit, this is almost a way of saying that the countries are flexing their muscles – but not actually bringing anything lethal and military to the table (which is known as “hard power”). China also has a history for helping underdeveloped countries improve upon or create a space program for them. This in itself is a great example of China practicing international leadership skills. Plus China is becoming more self-sufficient. They have established their own GPS system, match the US in annual launches, launched a test module for a 2020 satellite, made their own version of the European Space Agency – APSCO, and are training their own astronauts that may be on the moon by 2030.

There are some good and bad outcomes if China becomes an international space power. On one hand China is not a fan of “weaponizing” space. They are more geared towards helping civilians with common day tasks and humanity as a whole. They are also good at building upon national security in a non-military and noncompetitive way. On the other hand Asian countries tend to fear they are seen as “falling behind”. This leads to Asian countries rivaling one another by hiding information. This behavior leads to scientific duplication which can create an arms race. In addition China may be seen as a leader for underdeveloped countries, but fails to cooperate with the rest of the modern world.

China is in a great economic stance to become the next space superpower, but needs to understand key collaborating concepts in order to succeed.